committee recommended that the present system of single time zone may be continued. The committee further recommended that work timings in the eastern States may be advanced by one hour, in order to gainfully utilize the morning hours. This will involve only administrative instructions in this regard by concerned authorities.

(e) Does not arise.

TIFAC workshop

1902. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed by some leading scientists at a recent one-day workshop organised by the Technology, Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) pleading for urgent need to promote special rural development related technologies; and

(b) if so, the highlights of views/observations made at the said workshop and the details of plans drawn up, if any, to select critical technologies to provide development directions for rapid growth of the rural economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to identify the problems and areas of Science and Technology interventions in the rural pottery sector, a workshop was organised by Technology, Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council in Jaipur on 19th June, 2002. As a follow up action, a meeting was held in New Delhi to finalise the plan of action for rural pottery sector. Actions will be undertaken on specific projects when received.

Loan for modernisation of SAIL

1903. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 433, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th July, 2002 and state:

(a) the total amount borrowed by SAIL during the last three years for modernisation of its plants; and

(b) to what extent the debt burden has been minimised and the progress achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has not specifically borrowed for modernisation projects during the last three years, as the same have been completed. However, borrowings allocated for modernisation projects during the last four years is as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

As on	Borrowing allocated for modernisation of Rourkela, Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants
31.3.2002	3544
31.3.2001	3661
31.3.2000	3795
31.3.1999	7825

During the period 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, a reduction of Rs. 7005 crores in the total borrowings of SAIL has been achieved, which includes borrowing on account of modernisation of Rourkela, Durgapur and Bokaro Steel Plants.

Revival package for IISCO

1904. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL's revival proposal for IISCO envisaged grant of Rs. 200 crore for meeting cash loss;

(b) whether the same has not been approved by Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor, when IISCO is facing acute shortage of working capital and its day-to-day operation are in jeopardy;

(d) whether SAIL has approached Government to reconsider their decision; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) In the revival proposal